

Just for the Kids

School Services

2007

Our Mission:

“To Raise Academic Standards and Increase Achievement to ensure ALL Students are College/ Career Ready.”

National Center for Educational Accountability

national sponsor of Just for the Kids

Just for the Kids School Services do not represent just another school reform initiative. They represent an effective process for creating an **actionable** school improvement plan.

How many schools have improvement plans that are really **actionable** documents?

Just for the Kids School Services provide you with information and tools to assist you in structuring a school improvement plan that will lead ALL students to college and career readiness.

The Model—Benchmark against the best using Data and Best Practice to help increase student performance.

The key concept behind this service is **benchmarking**—comparisons with the best. This means comparing your performance and practices with that of most successful schools facing equally difficult challenges. Knowledge gained from these processes will then guide you to a deliberate actionable school improvement plan, resulting in greater student achievement in your school.

Inform—with Data

Where are we now? All school improvement begins with an honest and diligent effort to understand your school’s current reality. If other schools are reaching higher levels of student achievement with similar student populations, you can do it too!

Use *Just for the Kids School Reports* to benchmark and compare your student performance results in each grade and subject with those of higher performing schools serving similar or more disadvantaged populations. Or—if you choose—benchmark your school against the highest performing schools in the state. *JFTK School Reports* show what is possible for the students in your school, ensuring that your school improvement goals are set at appropriately high levels.

Inspire—with Evidence-Based Practices

How do we move forward? After you have developed a deep understanding of your school’s current reality and what achievement levels are possible for your students, you are ready to examine and compare the practices and behaviors of higher performing schools.

NCEA’s Best Practice Framework and *Self-Audits* allow you to compare your practices to those practices found in *Consistently Higher Performing Schools*.

The *Framework* focuses on the instructional principles at consistently higher

performing schools, describing the organizational structures and functions that directly relate to teaching and learning in a school system. The deep and broad basis for the *Framework* is based on six years of studying consistently higher performing schools and school systems.

The *Self-Audits* are organized around the *Framework* and are taken by staff on the district-, school-, and classroom-levels. The *Self-Audits* will allow you and your staff to thoroughly review your instructional practices of school system and help you diagnose issues of communication and policy implementation across your school system.

Improve—through Focused Actions

Let's Go! You've evaluated your school system's practices and its potential. Now it's time to target academic goals and practices that you will allow you to reach for a higher level of achievement for your students.

Informed and inspired planning will lead to action—and subsequently to the higher achievement of your students. Move your organization from “knowing what sustained higher performing school systems do” to “*doing* what sustained higher performing school systems do” with the knowledge gained through the *JFTK School Reports* and *Best Practice Framework*.

Using your district's school improvement plan templates, convert your knowledge into planning and ultimately into organizational action.

Using the results from the *Self-Audits*, you can participate in Webinars, featuring JFTK Mentors who are leaders from higher performing schools. Communicating with these educators allows you to get “hands on” information about best practice in higher performing schools.

Our Goals

Our goal at the National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA) is to support your school's efforts to reach excellence—to raise academic expectations and to promote those practices that will help more students reach college/career readiness.

Just for the Kids is the model we have created to accomplish this goal in your state. Using knowledge gained from the study of approximately 500 higher performing schools and systems across the country, this service is meant to inform and inspire—and ultimately improve—student achievement in your school.

Through our partnership, we can help your school system create a culture of learning and develop a continuous improvement process that will lead to the student performance results you desire.

About NCEA

The National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting higher achievement for all students using tools to focus communities on the potential of every school.

NCEA is the national sponsor of *Just for the Kids* featuring JFTK School Reports, the Best Practice Framework, and the Self-Audits.

NCEA campaigns for improving state data collection to improve decision making and conducts research on school improvement issues and practices.

NCEA is headquartered in Austin, Texas.

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The National Center for Educational Accountability is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.